

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MILAN 00975 01 OF 02 031910Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SY-02 MCT-01 USSS-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PRS-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 /040 W
-----031930Z 058764 /44

O 031655Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5412
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL TURIN
CG SETAF VICENZA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MILAN 0975

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, PINS, IT
SUBJECT: MILAN TERRORISM-- EDITOR MONTANELLI SHOT

SUMMARY. LATEST TERRORISM IN MILAN OCCURRED JUNE 2
WHEN OUTSPOKEN EDITOR OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT CONSER-
VATIVE IL GIORNALE SHOT IN LEGS BY UNMASKED GUNMEN
BELIEVED TO BE PART OF RED BRIGADE ORGANIZATION.
MONTANELLI RESTING COMFORTABLY AND IN NO DANGER.
POLICE ARE AT WIT' END. PRESS DENIES IT CAN BE
INTIMIDATED AND BELIEVE INCIDENT LIKELY GIVE
FURTHER SUPPORT TOUGHER POLICE MEASURES. END SUMMARY

1. MONTANELLI SHOT IN LEGS FROM REAR WHILE TAKING
HABITUAL MORNING WALK IN DOWNTOWN MILAN. TWO GUNMEN
IN EARLY THIRTIES ESCAPED WITH ACCOMPLICE IN WAITING
CAR. NO ARRESTS YET MADE. MONTANELLI HAD NO TIME
DRAW HIS OWN WEAPON.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 MILAN 00975 01 OF 02 031910Z

2. I CALLED ON HIM THIS MORNING TO FIND HOSPITAL
CROWDED WITH WELL WISHERS. HE REITERATED HIS
DETERMINATION CONTINUE SPEAK OUT NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS. AS FOR MOTIVATION AND GENESIS OF ATTACK, HE
APPEARS GENUINELY MYSTIFIED--OTHER THAN THAT HE IS OPEN
ENEMY OF EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT AND OPPOSED TO PCI
ENTRY TO GOVERNMENT. MONTANELLI DISMISSED EXTREME

RIGHTIST ORIGIN AS UNBELIEVABLE. MOREOVER, HE
COULDN'T BELIEVE PCI TO BE INVOLVED WITHER--HOWEVER MUCH
HE WAS ADVERSARY AND DESPITE FACT THAT HIS SHOOTING
INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF DC-PCI DEAL TO RE-ESTABLISH
LAW AND ORDER. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THESE ACTS WERE
COORDINATED AND PART OF A PLAN. JUST AT THE TIME
NEWS CAME OF SIMILAR SHOOTING JUNE 3 OF TV EDITOR
EMILIO ROSSI IN ROME. SUCH EVENTS, HE GRINNED,
WERE NOT COINCIDENCES. MAYBE IT WAS SOVIET POLICE
TRYING TO EMBARRASS PCI, HE SURMISED. CHINESE PERPE-
TRATION HE DOUBTED. IN ANY EVENT, HE AND GIORNALE
WOULD NEVER WAVER WHETHER THEY GOT HIM IN THE END OR
NOT, HE SAID GRIMLY.

3. POLICE HAD LITTLE TO ADD. RED BRIGADE HAD
CLAIMED PATERNITY FOR ATTACK IN VERY WELL WRITTEN
STATEMENT GIVEN ANSA EVENING JUNE 2. ASSOCIATION OF
ATTACK ON MONTANELLI WITH MULTINATIONALS AND DC
DEPUTY DE CAROLIS WERE ITS MAIN POINTS.

4. AS IN OTHER RECENT TALKS WITH SENIOR POLICE,
THEY ARE BAFFLED. THEY ARE UNABLE TO PENETRATE TERRORIST
MOVEMENT WHICH THEY CLAIM VERY CAREFULLY COMPARTMEN-
TALIZED. THEY SEE SOME THOUSANDS OF ADHERENTS--AN
INCREASE OVER THEIR EARLIER GUESSES. POLICE ALSO
POINT TO CAREFUL PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION OF TERRORISTS
WHO HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED, PRACTISED IN USE OF FIREARMS,
EXPLOSIVES AND COMMUNICATIONS. THIS IS NOT RANDOM
OUTBREAK, IN THEIR VIEW, BUT PREPARED BY UNIVERSITY
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PAGE 03 MILAN 00975 01 OF 02 031910Z

FACULTY AND SIMILAR LEVEL MEN AND WOMEN.

5. MILAN POLICE BESEIGED WITH REQUESTS FOR BODY-
GUARDS WHOM THEY CAN SUPPLY ONLY UP TO A POINT.
MEANWHILE, THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT DE CAROLIS (SIMILARLY
SHOT BY RED BRIGADE IN LEGS IN 1974) AND ATTACKS ON
COURTS OR POLICE AS TRIAL BEGINS IN MILAN JUNE 15
OF RED BRIGADE LEADER CURCIO.

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00975 02 OF 02 031915Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MILAN 0975

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: FSN

6. A CHECK WITH PRESS BY DPAO DREW ASSURANCES THAT
SUCH ATTACKS WOULD ONLY INCREASE PRESS CONDEMNATION
OF TERRORISTS AND INCREASE SUPPORT FOR INCREASED
POLICE POWER--ESPECIALLY PREVENTATIVE ARREST.

7. LEO VALIANI, ANTI-COMMUNIST EX-ACTION PARTY
SOCIALIST NOW REGULAR EDITORIALIST FOR CORRIERE, TOLD BPAO
REPRESSIVE POLICE MEASURES NEEDED--HOWEVER UN-
POPULAR THEY MIGHT BE. VALIANI BELIEVES KGB MAY BE SABOTAGING
BERLINGUER'S HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND PCI ACCESSION
TO GOVERNMENT LIKE FORMER MILAN PREFECT MAZZA, HE THINKS
CZECHS MAY BE DIRECTLY BACKSTOPPING TERRORISTS.

8. COMMENT. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT LOCAL POLICE, PREFECT
AND POLITICAL LEADERS EQUALLY IN DARK ABOUT ORGAN-
IZATION THIS CONTINUING TERRORISM. ATTRIBUTION OF
INSPIRATION TO SOVIET UNION OR CZECHS TO SABOTAGE
BERLINGUER FAILS EXPLAIN HW BERLINGUER WOULD BE HARMED
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PAGE 02 MILAN 00975 02 OF 02 031915Z

BY INCREASING OPENING OF GOVERNMENT TO PCI IN HOPE
OF COMBATTING TERRORISM. ALL AGREE THAT CONTINUING
ATTACKS ARE GRAVE THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC STATE.
NOT BECAUSE TERRORISTS HAVE ANY HOPE OF SEIZING POWER. BUT BECAUSE
THEY MAY CDESTABILIZE SITUATION
SUFFICIENTLY THAT MAJOR FORCES IN ITALIAN SOCIETY
BEGIN TO MOVE WITH TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE RESULTS.
OUR CONTACTS UNANAMOUS IN SAYING THAT TERRORISM IS
SPEEDING PACE OF DC-PCI AGREEMENT ON SOME KIND OF

CLOSER NATIONAL MODUS VIVENDI THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME
OF WHICH IS UNCLEAR. BUT THERE IS ALSO FEAR THAT THIS
VERY EVOLUTION WILL BE ADDITIVE TO TERRORISM AND TRIGGER
RIGHTIST COUP. WHILE ABSOLUTELY NONE OF OKRK ACAN EXPLAIN THE WHO OR
HOW OF SUCH RIGHTIST ACTION,
THE FEAR IS NEVERTHELESS STILL PRESENT. POLICE AND
OUR OTHER CONTACTS OFFER FEW SUGGESTIONS ON HOW SUPPRESS
TERRORISM BEYOND SECURING POWER TO MAKE PREVEN-
TATIVE ARREST--A POLICY OPPOSED BY PSI. WHETHER THIS
WILL BE ACCORDED BY PARLIAMENT OUR LOCAL CONTACTS
DOUBT. IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ABRIDGE-
MENT OF DUE PROCESS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. WHILE
NOT AS MUCH A SHOCK IN ITALY AS IT WOULD BE IN US,
NEVERTHELESS, ITS ADOPTION WOULD BE A MEASURE OF THE
EXTREME GRAVITY WITH WHICH TERRORISM AND
KIDNAPPING INCREASINGLY VIEWED HERE IN MILAN.FINA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, JOURNALISTS, CASUALTIES, TERRORISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MILAN00975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-0927
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770693/aaaaddqt.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c15ac785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2289036
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILAN TERRORISM-- EDITOR MONTANELLI SHOT SUMMARY. LATEST TERRORISM IN MILAN OCCURRED JUNE 2 WHEN OUTSPOKEN EDITOR OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT CONS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, PINS, IT, (MONTANELLI, INDRO)
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c15ac785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009